PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number:

2000-150846

(43) Date of publication of application: 30.05.2000

(51)Int.Cl.

G02B 5/20 H04N 5/335

(21)Application number: 10-336483

(71)Applicant: OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO LTD

(22)Date of filing:

12.11.1998

(72)Inventor: ISOKAWA TOSHIHIKO

TAKAYANAGI ISAO

(54) SOLID STATE IMAGING DEVICE AND MANUFACTURE OF IT

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a solid state imaging device with an excellent optical characteristics, together with a method for manufacturing it, wherein the characteristics of a micro lens and a color filter is not damaged even with a multilayer interconnection comprising a minuteness of element and additional function, the condensing effect with the micro lens is sufficiently exhibited while defectives such as color mixture of a color filter are settled.

SOLUTION: A light receiving part 2 comprising a wiring and a peripheral circuit part 3 comprising a wiring are provided on a semiconductor substrate 1, the film thickness of an interlayer film 11 of the light receiving part 2 is thinner than that of the interlayer film comprising a protective film 12 of the peripheral circuit part 3, and a color filter 7 and a micro lens 8 are formed on the interlayer film 11 of the light receiving part 2.

LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination]

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[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] the micro lens formed on the light sensing portion which consists of an optoelectric transducer arranged a single dimension or in the shape of-dimensional [2], the circumference circuit section which consists of an MOSFET which has a multilayer interconnection, and said light sensing portion -- and -- or the solid state camera characterized by forming more thinly than the interlayer film containing the protective coat on said circumference circuit section the interlayer film on said light sensing portion in the solid state camera equipped with the light filter at least.

[Claim 2] The manufacture approach of the solid state camera which carries out etching clearance only of the interlayer film which contains the protective coat on said light sensing portion after forming the interlayer film containing a protective coat selectively in the manufacture approach of the solid state camera concerning said claim 1 so that the same flat surface may be made on a light sensing portion and the circumference circuit section, and is characterized by forming thinly the thickness of the interlayer film on said light sensing portion.

[Claim 3] The manufacture approach of the solid state camera concerning claim 2 characterized by forming the etching stopper layer to alternative etching of the interlayer film containing the protective coat on said light sensing portion, and carrying out etching clearance of the interlayer film containing the protective coat on said light sensing portion.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to that manufacture approach at the solid state camera with which it comes to load various goods together the solid state camera equipped with the micro lens or the light filter especially the light sensing portion equipped with the micro lens or the light filter, and circumference circuits, such as a digital disposal circuit, on the same semi-conductor substrate, and a list.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In recent years, in the solid state camera used for a noncommercial digital camera etc., the demand about a miniaturization and lightweight-izing has been increasing with the demand to high definition in the portable field. In the former, the so-called development of the SOS (system ON silicon) technique which one-chip-izes options other than the sensor ability currently formed with another chip, for example, a digital disposal circuit, a control circuit, etc. with a light sensing portion is made with the light sensing portion in order to reply to these demands. [0003] As an example of this ED, it is paper "CMOS Image Sensors by E.R Fossum and others.: The report is made by Electronic Camera-On-A-Chip, "(IEEE Trans.On Electron Devices, 44, 10 pp.1689-1698, and 1997), etc. Since the solid state camera of such a configuration can reduce the components mark of a system in a video camera, a digital camera, etc., it becomes sufficiently possible to attain miniaturization of a system, lightweight-izing, and low cost-ization.

[0004] However, there is a demand of the further miniaturization etc. also in the solid state camera using the above-mentioned SOS technique, and detailed-ization of a pixel field will also be inevitably needed, consequently the sensibility lowering by reduction in a numerical aperture will be caused. It is possible to gather the utilization effectiveness of light and to suppress sensibility lowering by adopting the microlens technique generally used by current [CCD] etc. to the problem of this sensibility lowering. [0005] Multilayer-interconnection-ization is progressing as an approach for raising the degree of integration of the circumference circuit section especially by multi-functionalization also progressing with a miniaturization on the other hand, and adding various kinds of functions. Of course in the circumference circuit section, an interlayer insulation film will accumulate more thickly also in a light sensing portion as multilayer-interconnection-ization of the circumference circuit section progresses. This will be in the same condition by multilayer-interconnection-ization of the circumference circuit sections other than a light sensing portion also not only in the solid state camera of an SOS gestalt but in a common solid state camera.

[0006] Next, it explains based on the partial expanded sectional view having shown the configuration of such a solid state camera of the multilayer-interconnection-ized conventional SOS gestalt in <u>drawing 7</u>. Here, the light filter and the solid state camera equipped with both micro lenses are illustrated. It sets to <u>drawing 7</u> and is 101. A semi-conductor substrate and 102 An optoelectric transducer and 103 A light sensing portion and 104 The circumference circuit sections, such as actuation and signal processing, and 105 The signal wiring in a light sensing portion, and 106 The signal wiring of circumference circuit

circles, and 107 An interlayer insulation film and 108 The flattening film and 109 A light filter and 110 It is a micro lens.

[0007]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, the following problems occur in the solid state camera of such a configuration. That is, not an exception but the interlayer insulation film of a light sensing portion is an optoelectric transducer 102, when a light sensing portion also becomes thick, although an interlayer insulation film becomes thick with multilayer-interconnection-ization in the solid state camera shown in <u>drawing 7</u>. Light filter 109 And each distance df and dm with a micro lens 110 becomes large beyond the need.

[0008] Thus, micro lens 110 Optoelectric transducer 102 If distance dm becomes large beyond the need, it will become the conditions unsuitable for condensing. When the distance of about [that the improvement in sensibility of the request by the micro lens is not expectable as a result], a micro lens, and a light sensing portion (optoelectric transducer) becomes large beyond the need, nonconformities, such as generating of shading, arise at the time of ** depending on an optical-system F value. Moreover, light filter 109 When carried, it is a light filter 109. A color blot and the so-called color mixture become a problem because the distance df with a light sensing portion (optoelectric transducer) becomes large beyond the need.

[0009] Generally it is a micro lens 110. Although formed of revolution spreading, and patterning and heat treatment of heat-softening-properties resin, if it is going to form a micro lens to compensate for thick-film-izing of an interlayer film to the same pixel, it is necessary to adjust a focal distance and thin film-ization of the micro lens itself will become indispensable. Therefore, although it is necessary to make the heat softening resin at the time of revolution spreading thinner than before, higher level is required of the thickness homogeneity in that case, and it has the problem that process control becomes difficult

[0010] Moreover, by constraint on a process etc., when the case where thin-film-izing of a micro lens is difficult, and it forms by thickness as usual is considered also in thick-film-izing of an interlayer film, the condensing situation of a micro lens is as follows. That is, it sets to drawing 7 and the vertical light X is an optoelectric transducer 102. By the epilogue and the light sensing portion (optoelectric transducer), it will be in a defocusing condition about Focus alpha in the upper part, and is signal wiring 105. The KERARE component beta to depend increases and the rate of condensing does not increase. Moreover, although it is necessary to consider the slanting light Y depending on optical system, as shown in drawing in this case, problems, such as shading by the leakage lump gamma by the contiguity pixel, occur. On the other hand, about the optical property of a light filter, problems, such as a color blot by the slanting light Y and the so-called color mixture, occur.

[0011] This invention was made in order to cancel the above-mentioned trouble, and it has the optical property which canceled nonconformities, such as color mixture of a light filter, and was excellent while it does not spoil the property of a micro lens or a light filter in detailed-izing of a component, or multilayer-interconnection-izing by functional addition but demonstrates the condensing effectiveness by the micro lens enough, and it aims at offering the solid state camera stabilized also in respect of manufacture, and its manufacture approach.

[0012]

[Means for Solving the Problem] the micro lens formed on the light sensing portion which consists of an optoelectric transducer by which invention concerning claim 1 was arranged a single dimension or in the shape of-dimensional [2] in order to solve the above-mentioned trouble, the circumference circuit section which consists of an MOSFET which has a multilayer interconnection, and said light sensing portion -- and -- or it is characterized in the solid state camera equipped with a light filter at least by to form thinly than the interlayer film containing the protective coat on said circumference circuit section the interlayer film on said light sensing portion.

[0013] Thus, the solid state camera equipped with the optical property which problems, such as color mixture of a light filter, were avoided and was excellent by the configuration which makes thin selectively only the interlayer film on a light sensing portion while the rate of condensing by the micro

lens improved is obtained.

[0014] Moreover, invention concerning claim 2 is set to the manufacture approach of the solid state camera concerning claim 1. After forming the interlayer film containing a protective coat so that the same flat surface may be made on a light sensing portion and the circumference circuit section, Invention which carries out etching clearance only of the interlayer film containing the protective coat on said light sensing portion selectively, is characterized by forming thinly the thickness of the interlayer film on said light sensing portion, and relates to claim 3 In the manufacture approach of the solid state camera concerning claim 2, it is characterized by forming the etching stopper layer to alternative etching of the interlayer film containing the protective coat on said light sensing portion, and carrying out etching clearance of the interlayer film containing the protective coat on said light sensing portion.

[0015] While adjustment of the thickness of an interlayer film which was suitable for the micro lens or the light filter by etching only the interlayer film on a light sensing portion selectively by such manufacture approach is attained, the stable manufacture is attained by using an etching stopper layer. [0016]

[Embodiment of the Invention] Next, the gestalt of implementation of invention is explained. Drawing 1 is the partial expanded sectional view showing the gestalt of operation of the solid state camera concerning this invention. With the gestalt of this operation, the solid state camera equipped with both the micro lens and the light filter is illustrated. drawing 1 -- setting -- 1 -- a semi-conductor substrate and 2 -- a light sensing portion and 3 -- the circumference circuit section and 4 -- for a micro lens and 9, as for a flattening layer and 11, an etching stopper layer and 10 are [wiring of circumference circuit circles / 5 / an optoelectric transducer and / 6 / wiring in a light sensing portion, and /, and 7 / a light filter and 8 / an interlayer film and 12] protective coats. In addition, the class of optoelectric transducer is not limited and this invention can be applied even to what kind of thing.

[0017] In this invention, in the light sensing portion 2 and the circumference circuit sections 3, such as signal processing, which were formed on the semi-conductor substrate 1, thickness of the interlayer film containing both protective coats is not made the same, but the thickness di of the interlayer film in a light sensing portion is formed more thinly than the thickness do of the interlayer film containing the protective coat of circumference circuit circles, and is made into the optimal thickness to the light filter 7 and the micro lens 8. Therefore, also in thick-film-izing of the interlayer film accompanying multilayer-interconnection-izing of the circumference circuit section, optical nonconformities, such as decline in the rate of condensing as shown in the conventional example, shading depending on an optical-system F value, or color mixture, can realize the solid state camera which is not produced.

[0018] Next, the gestalt of such implementation of the manufacture approach of the solid state camera of a configuration is explained based on the partial expanded sectional view of drawing 2 - drawing 6 R> 6 having shown the outline in order of the process. In addition, in drawing 2 - drawing 6, the same sign is attached and shown in the component which has the same component as the solid state camera shown in drawing 1, and the same function.

[0019] First, as shown in drawing 2, in a light sensing portion 2, circuits (not shown), such as actuation, control, and signal processing, are formed in an optoelectric transducer 4 and the circumference circuit section 3 on the semi-conductor substrate 1. Then, signal wiring 5 and 6 is formed using a general semi-conductor manufacturing technology. Here, the input of bias etc. and the output of a picture signal are needed for a light sensing portion 2, and wiring can be managed with about 2-3 layers at most. On the other hand, while multilayering becomes indispensable by incorporation of an option because integration progresses, multilayering is more needed [for a digital disposal circuit etc.] in the circumference circuit section 3, further with detailed-ization of a component. That is, in the solid state camera which makes an SOS (system ON silicon) gestalt, multilayering of a circumference digital disposal circuit etc. progresses further by detailed-ization, and the multilayering more than the wiring layer needed for a light sensing portion is needed at least.

[0020] Next, the wiring process of a light sensing portion and the wiring process of a part of circumference circuit section are completed, and an interlayer film 11 is formed to a light sensing

portion and the circumference circuit section. The etching stopper layer 9 used in case etching clearance of the interlayer film which contains the protective coat formed in the maximum top face all over a light sensing portion and the circumference circuit section being included succeedingly is carried out is formed by the CVD method or the revolution applying method. If the interlayer film containing the protective coat which carries out etching clearance here is silicon oxide, in the etching stopper layer 9, a silicon nitride is desirable. Especially an ingredient is not limited by the engine performance required of the etching stopper layer 9 that there should just be etch selectivity at the time of etching of the interlayer film containing a protective coat. In addition, although the etching stopper layer 9 is formed here after formation of the interlayer film 11 which turns into a protective coat to a light sensing portion, into the interlayer film after wiring termination of a light sensing portion, an etching stopper layer may be formed anywhere for adjustment of the thickness of an interlayer film suitable for a micro lens or a light filter. After forming the etching stopper layer 9, the remaining wiring of the circumference circuit section is succeedingly formed in a multilayer-interconnection process, the last protective coat 12 is formed, and the last production processes, such as pad opening, are performed. [0021] Then, as shown in drawing 3, the resist mask 13 which carries out opening only of the light sensing portion 2 is formed with photolithography. Furthermore, the interlayer film containing a protective coat 12 is etched until it etches and the etching stopper layer 9 in a light sensing portion 2 is thoroughly exposed, as shown in drawing 4. Etching performed here has the desirable wet etching by the solution of HF system in the viewpoint of spreading homogeneity of the light filter mentioned [which mentions later and etching-controls] later, or a micro-lens ingredient. In case especially the spreading homogeneity of the latter light filter or a micro-lens ingredient forms a light filter or a microlens ingredient by revolution spreading, it becomes important in the semantics which avoids local thickness unevenness. On the other hand, when the design rule of the above-mentioned resist mask is fine and it is difficult in wet etching, dry etching, such as RIE, is sufficient. In this case, it is necessary to make it the etching configuration where the spreading nature of the light filter which thickens a resist mask or mentioned it above from a viewpoint of selectivity, or a micro-lens ingredient was taken into consideration.

[0022] Then, when etching clearance of the interlayer film containing the unnecessary protective coat 12 on a light sensing portion is completed, the oxygen plasma and resist exfoliation liquid remove the resist mask 13. Then, the etching stopper layer 9 is etched in a sentiment or dry processing. It is desirable to perform etching in this case on the high conditions of etch selectivity to the substrate interlayer film 11. The condition after this processing comes to be shown in drawing 5. In addition, in drawing 5, although the upper part of the interlayer film 11 in a light sensing portion is illustrated evenly, the concavo-convex level difference which reflected the wiring 5 of a substrate in practice has arisen, and it forms the flattening film if needed. Then, although the process which forms a light filter 7, and the process which forms a micro lens 8 are performed as shown in drawing 6, the flattening film 10 is formed in the upper part of the interlayer film 11 in a light sensing portion if needed as mentioned above. The solid state camera applied to the gestalt of this operation according to the above process is completed.

[0023] In addition, although the gestalt of this operation explained the solid state camera of an SOS gestalt, it is possible to apply this invention also to a common solid state camera, without being limited to this.

[0024] Thus, while not spoiling the property of a micro lens or a light filter but demonstrating the condensing effectiveness by the micro lens enough by the configuration which makes thin selectively only the interlayer film on a light sensing portion, nonconformities, such as color mixture of a light filter, are canceled and the outstanding optical property is obtained. Moreover, by etching only the interlayer film on a light sensing portion selectively, adjustment of the thickness of an interlayer film suitable for a micro lens or a light filter is attained, and the manufacture stabilized by the etching stopper layer is attained.

[0025]

[Effect of the Invention] As mentioned above, according to this invention, by the configuration which

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the outline partial expanded sectional view showing the gestalt of operation of the solid state camera concerning this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the sectional view showing the production process of the solid state camera concerning the gestalt of operation shown in <u>drawing 1</u>.

[<u>Drawing 3</u>] It is the sectional view showing the production process following the production process shown in <u>drawing 2</u>.

[Drawing 4] It is the sectional view showing the production process following the production process shown in drawing 3.

[Drawing 5] It is the sectional view showing the production process following the production process shown in drawing 4.

[Drawing 6] It is the sectional view showing the production process following the production process shown in drawing 5.

[Drawing 7] It is drawing showing the example of a configuration of the solid state camera of the conventional SOS configuration, and the trouble in it.

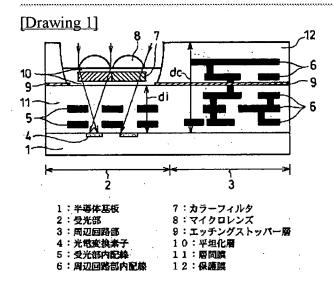
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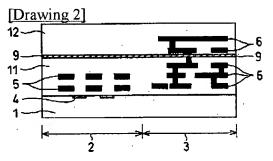
- 1 Semi-conductor Substrate
- 2 Light Sensing Portion
- 3 Circumference Circuit Section
- 4 Optoelectric Transducer
- 5 Wiring in Light Sensing Portion
- 6 Circumference Circuit Circles Wiring
- 7 Light Filter
- 8 Micro Lens
- 9 Etching Stopper Layer
- 10 Flattening Layer
- 11 Interlayer Film
- 12 Protective Coat
- 13 Resist Mask

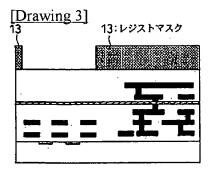
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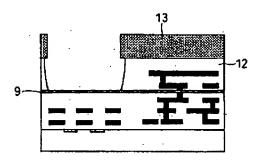
DRAWINGS

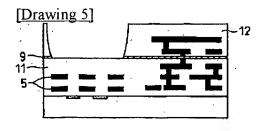


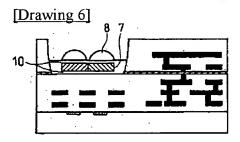


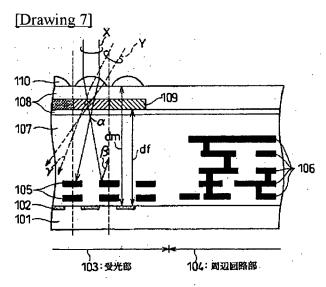


[Drawing 4]









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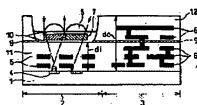
(72)Inventor:

ISOKAWA TOSHIHIKO TAKAYANAGI ISAO

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(19)日本国特許庁 (JP)

(12) 公開特許公報(A)

(11)特許出願公開番号 特開2000-150846 (P2000-150846A)

(43)公開日 平成12年5月30日(2000.5.30)

(51) Int.Cl.7		識別配号	FΙ			テーマコード(参考)
H01L	27/14		HO1L	27/14	D	2H048
G 0 2 B	5/20	101	G 0 2 B	5/20	101	4M118
H 0 4 N	5/335		H 0 4 N	5/335	v	5 C O 2 4

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数3 FD (全6 頁)

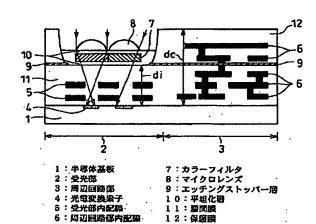
		審査請求	未請求 請求項の数3 FD (全 6 頁)		
(21)出願番号	特國平10-336483	(71)出願人	000000376		
(22)出願日	平成10年11月12日(1998.11.12)	オリンパス光学工業株式会社 東京都渋谷区幡ヶ谷2丁目43番2号			
		(72) 発明者	磯川 俊彦 東京都渋谷区幡ケ谷2丁目43番2号 オリ ンパス光学工業株式会社内		
		(72)発明者			
		(74)代理人	100087273 弁理士 最上 健治		
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(54) 【発明の名称】 固体撮像装置及びその製造方法

(57) 【要約】

【課題】 素子の微細化や機能付加による多層配線化によっても、マイクロレンズやカラーフィルタの特性を損なわず、マイクロレンズによる集光効果を十分発揮させると共に、カラーフィルタの混色などの不具合を解消して、優れた光学特性を備えた固体撮像装置及びその製造方法を提供する。

【解決手段】 半導体基板1上に配線を有する受光部2 と配線を有する周辺回路部3とを設け、受光部2の層間 膜11の膜厚を周辺回路部3の保護膜12を含む層間膜の膜 厚より薄く形成して、該受光部2の層間膜11上にカラー フィルタ7とマイクロレンズ8を形成して固体攝像装置 を構成する。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 一次元又は二次元状に配列された光電変換素子からなる受光部と、多層配線を有するMOSFE Tなどからなる周辺回路部と、前記受光部上に形成されたマイクロレンズ及び、又はカラーフィルタとを少なくとも備えた固体損像装置において、前記受光部上の層間膜を前記周辺回路部上の保護膜を含む層間膜より薄く形成することを特徴とする固体損像装置。

【請求項2】 前記請求項1に係る固体撮像装置の製造方法において、受光部及び周辺回路部上に同一平面をなすように保護膜を含む層間膜を形成したのち、前記受光部上の保護膜を含む層間膜のみを選択的にエッチング除去し、前記受光部上の層間膜の厚さを薄く形成することを特徴とする固体撮像装置の製造方法。

【請求項3】 前記受光部上の保護膜を含む層間膜の選択的なエッチングに対するエッチングストッパー層を形成して、前記受光部上の保護膜を含む層間膜をエッチング除去することを特徴とする請求項2に係る固体撮像装置の製造方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】この発明は、マイクロレンズやカラーフィルタを備えた固体撮像装置、特にマイクロレンズやカラーフィルタを備えた受光部と、信号処理回路などの周辺回路が同一半導体基板上に混載されてなる固体撮像装置、並びにその製造方法に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】近年、民生用のデジタルカメラ等に用いる固体撮像装置においては、高画質に対する要求と共に携帯性の面で小型化、軽量化に関する要求が高まってきている。これらの要求に答えるべく、従来では受光部とは別チップで形成されていたセンサ機能以外の付加機能、例えば信号処理回路、制御回路などを、受光部と共にワンチップ化する、いわゆるSOS(システム オンシリコン)技術の開発がなされている。

【0003】かかる技術開発の例としては、E.R Fossum らによる論文 "CMOS Image Sensors: Electronic Camer a-On-A-Chip," (1EEE Trans. On Electron Devices. 44.10 pp. 1689-1698, 1997)などで報告がなされている。このような構成の固体撮像装置は、ビデオカメラ、デジタルカメラ等においてシステムの部品点数を削減できるので、システムの小型化、軽量化及び低コスト化を図ることが十分可能になる。

【0004】しかしながら、上記SOS技術を用いた固体操像装置においても更なる小型化等の要求があり、必然的に画素領域の微細化も必要となり、その結果、開口率の減少による感度低下を引き起こすことになる。この感度低下の問題に対しては、現在CCD等で一般的に用いられているマイクロレンズ技術を採用することにより、光の利用効率を上げて感度低下を抑えることが可能

である。

【0005】その一方で小型化と共に多機能化も進み、各種の機能が付加されることにより、特に周辺回路部の 集積度を上げるための方法として、多層配線化が進んでいる。周辺回路部の多層配線化が進むにつれて、周辺回路部では勿論のこと受光部においても、層間絶縁膜がより厚く堆積されることになる。これは、SOS形態の固体操像装置に限らず、一般の固体操像装置においても受光部以外の周辺回路部の多層配線化により、同様な状態となる。

【0006】次に、このような多層配線化された従来のSOS形態の固体操像装置の構成を、図7に示した部分拡大断面図に基づいて説明する。ここでは、カラーフィルタとマイクロレンズの両方を備えた固体操像装置を例示している。図7において、101 は半導体基板、102 は光電変換素子、103 は受光部、104 は駆動、信号処理などの周辺回路部、105 は受光部内の信号配線、106 は周辺回路部内の信号配線、107 は層間絶縁膜、108 は平坦化膜、109 はカラーフィルタ、110 はマイクロレンズである。

[0007]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、このような構成の固体撮像装置においては、次のような問題が発生する。すなわち、図7に示した固体撮像装置においては、多層配線化と共に層間絶縁膜が厚くなるが、受光部も例外ではなく、受光部の層間絶縁膜が厚くなることにより、光電変換素子102とカラーフィルタ109及びマイクロレンズ110とのそれぞれの距離df及びdmが必要以上に大きくなる。

【0008】このように、マイクロレンズ110と光電変換素子102との距離dmが必要以上に大きくなると、集光に適さない条件となる。その結果マイクロレンズによる所望の感度向上が期待できないばかりか、マイクロレンズと受光部(光電変換素子)との距離が必要以上に大きくなることにより、光学系F値に依存した明時シェーディングの発生等の不具合が生じる。またカラーフィルタ109が搭載されている場合は、カラーフィルタ109と受光部(光電変換素子)との距離dfが必要以上に大きくなることで色にじみ、いわゆる混色が問題になる。

【0009】一般的にマイクロレンズ110 は、熱軟化性樹脂の回転塗布及びパターニングと熱処理により形成されるが、同一画素に対して層間膜の厚膜化に合わせてマイクロレンズを形成しようとすると、焦点距離を調整する必要があり、マイクロレンズ自体の薄膜化が必須となる。そのため、回転塗布時の熱軟化樹脂を従来より薄くする必要があるが、その際の膜厚均一性はより高いレベルを要求され、プロセス制御が困難になるという問題がある。

【0010】またプロセス上の制約などにより、層間膜の厚膜化においてもマイクロレンズの薄膜化が困難であ

り、従来通りの膜厚で形成した場合を考えると、マイクロレンズの集光状況は次のようになる。すなわち図7において、垂直光Xは光電変換素子102より上方で焦点 α を結び、受光部(光電変換素子)ではデフォーカス状態となり、信号配線105によるケラレ成分βが増え、集光率は上がらない。また、光学系によっては斜め光Yを考える必要があるが、この場合は図に示すように隣接画素への漏れ込みでによるシェーディング等の問題が発生する。一方、カラーフィルタの光学特性に関しては、斜め光Yによる色にじみ、いわゆる混色等の問題が発生する。

【0011】本発明は、上記問題点を解消するためになされたもので、素子の微細化、あるいは機能付加による多層配線化においても、マイクロレンズやカラーフィルタの特性を損なわず、マイクロレンズによる集光効果を十分発揮させると共に、カラーフィルタの混色などの不具合を解消して、優れた光学特性を持ち、製造面でも安定した固体撮像装置及びその製造方法を提供することを目的とする。

[0012]

【課題を解決するための手段】上記問題点を解決するため、請求項1に係る発明は、一次元又は二次元状に配列された光電変換素子からなる受光部と、多層配線を有するMOSFETなどからなる周辺回路部と、前記受光部上に形成されたマイクロレンズ及び、又はカラーフィルタとを少なくとも備えた固体撮像装置において、前記受光部上の層間膜を前記周辺回路部上の保護膜を含む層間膜より薄く形成することを特徴とするものである。

【0013】このように受光部上の層間膜のみを選択的に薄くする構成により、マイクロレンズによる集光率が向上すると共に、カラーフィルタの混色などの問題が回避され、優れた光学特性を備えた固体撮像装置が得られる。

【0014】また請求項2に係る発明は、請求項1に係る固体協像装置の製造方法において、受光部及び周辺回路部上に同一平面をなすように保護膜を含む層間膜を形成したのち、前記受光部上の保護膜を含む層間膜のみを選択的にエッチング除去し、前記受光部上の層間膜のみを薄く形成することを特徴とするものであり、また請求項3に係る発明は、請求項2に係る固体協像装置の製造方法において、前記受光部上の保護膜を含む層間膜の選択的なエッチングに対するエッチングストッパー層を形成して、前記受光部上の保護膜を含む層間膜をエッチング除去することを特徴とするものである。

【0015】このような製造方法により、受光部上の層間膜のみを選択的にエッチングすることによって、マイクロレンズあるいはカラーフィルタに適した層間膜の膜厚の調整が可能になると共に、エッチングストッパー層を用いることにより、安定した製造が可能となる。

[0016]

【発明の実施の形態】次に、発明の実施の形態について 説明する。図1は本発明に係る固体操像装置の実施の形態 態を示す部分拡大断面図である。この実施の形態では、 マイクロレンズとカラーフィルタの両方を備えた固体機 像装置を例示している。図1において、1は半導体基 板、2は受光部、3は周辺回路部、4は光電変換素子、 5は受光部内の配線、6は周辺回路部内の配線、7はカ ラーフィルタ、8はマイクロレンズ、9はエッチングス トッパー層、10は平坦化層、11は層間膜、12は保護膜で ある。なお、光電変換素子の種類は限定されるものでは なく、どのような種類のものにでも本発明は適用するこ とができる。

【0017】本発明においては、半導体基板1上に形成された受光部2と信号処理などの周辺回路部3において、双方の保護膜を含む層間膜の厚さを同一にするのではなく、受光部内の層間膜の膜厚diを、周辺回路部内の保護膜を含む層間膜の膜厚dcより薄く形成し、カラーフィルタ7及びマイクロレンズ8に対して最適な膜厚としている。したがって、周辺回路部の多層配線化に伴う層間膜の厚膜化においても、従来例に示す様な集光率の低下、光学系F値に依存したシェーディング、あるいは混色などの光学的な不具合は生じない固体撮像装置を実現することができる。

【0018】次に、このような構成の固体撮像装置の製造方法の実施の形態を、工程順に概略を示した図2~図6の部分拡大断面図に基づいて説明する。なお、図2~図6において、図1に示した固体撮像装置と同一の構成要素及び同一の機能を有する構成要素には同一の符号を付して示している。

【0019】まず、図2に示すように、半導体基板1上に、受光部2においては光電変換素子4,周辺回路部3においては駅動、制御、信号処理などの回路(図示せず)を形成する。続いて、一般的な半導体製造技術を用いて信号配線5及び6を形成する。ここで、受光部2に必要とされるのはパイアス等の入力及び画像信号の出のであり、せいぜい配線は2~3層程度で済む。一方の盟路部3では、信号処理回路などに付加機能の盛りと共に、更に素子の微細化によっても、より多層化が必要となる。すなわちSOS(システム オン シリコンの信号処理回路などの多層化が必要と形態をなす固体機像装置においては微細化により周辺信号処理回路などの多層化は一層進み、少なくとも、受光部に必要とされる配線層以上の多層化が必要となる。

【0020】次に、受光部の配線プロセス及び周辺回路部の一部の配線プロセスが終了し、受光部及び周辺回路部に対して層間膜目が形成される。引き続き受光部及び周辺回路部を含む全面に、最上面に形成される保護膜を含む層間膜をエッチング除去する際に用いるエッチングストッパー層9を、CVD法あるいは回転塗布法などにより形成する。ここでエッチング除去する保護膜を含む

【0021】続いて図3に示すように、受光部2のみを 開口するようなレジストマスク13をフォトリソグラフィ ーにて形成する。更に図4に示すように、エッチングを 行い受光部2におけるエッチングストッパー層9が完全 に露出するまで、保護膜12を含む層間膜のエッチングを 行う。ここで行うエッチングは、HF系の溶液によるウ エットエッチングがエッチング制御、あるいは後述する カラーフィルタ又はマイクロレンズ材料の塗布均一性の 観点で好ましい。特に後者のカラーフィルタ又はマイク ロレンズ材料の塗布均一性は、カラーフィルタあるいは マイクロレンズ材料を回転塗布にて形成する際に、局所 的な膜厚むらを回避する意味で重要になる。一方、上記 レジストマスクのデザインルールが細かくウエットエッ チングでは困難な場合は、RIE等のドライエッチング でも構わない。この場合は選択性の観点からレジストマ スクを厚くする、あるいは上述したカラーフィルタ又は マイクロレンズ材料の塗布性を考慮したエッチング形状 にする必要がある。

【0022】続いて、受光部上の不要な保護膜12を含む層間膜のエッチング除去が終了した時点で、レジストマスク13を酸素プラズマ及びレジスト剥離液にて除去する。引き続き、エッチングストッパー層9をウエットあるいはドライ処理にてエッチングする。この場合のエッチングは、下地層間膜11に対してエッチング選択性の高い条件で行うのが好ましい。この処理後の状態は図5に示すようになる。なお、図5では受光部内の層間膜11の上部は平坦に図示しているが、実際は下地の配線5を反映した凹凸段差が生じており、必要に応じて平坦化度を形成する。続いて図6に示すように、カラーフィルタ7を形成する。続いて図6に示すように、カラーフィルタ7を形成する工程、及びマイクロレンズ8を形成する正程、及びマイクロレンズ8を形成する間間にいたで発行うが、前述のように必要に応じて受光部内の層間にいた事態の上部に平坦化膜10を設ける。以上の工程によって、本実施の形態に係る固体操像装置が完成する。

【0023】なお、本実施の形態では、SOS形態の固体撥像装置について説明を行ったが、これに限定されることなく、一般的な固体撥像装置に対しても、本発明を適用することが可能である。

【0024】このように、受光部上の層間膜のみを選択的に蒋くする構成により、マイクロレンズやカラーフィルタの特性を損なわず、マイクロレンズによる集光効果を十分発揮させると共に、カラーフィルタの混色などの不具合を解消して、優れた光学特性が得られる。また、受光部上の層間膜のみを選択的にエッチングすることによって、マイクロレンズあるいはカラーフィルタに適した層間膜の膜厚の調整が可能となり、エッチングストッパー層により安定した製造が可能となる。

[0025]

【発明の効果】以上、実施の形態に基づいて説明したように、本発明によれば、素子の微細化、あるいは機能付加による多層配線化においても、受光部上の層間膜のみを選択的に薄くする構成により、マイクロレンズにかカラーフィルタの特性を損なわず、マイクロレンズによる集光効果を十分発揮させると共に、カラーフィルタの混色などの不具合を解消して、優れた光学特性もつ固体撮像装置を実現できる。また、受光部上の層間膜のみを選択的にエッチングすることによって、マイクロレンズあるいはカラーフィルタに適した層間膜の膜厚の調整が可能になると共に、エッチングストッパー層を用いることにより、受光部上の層間膜のみ選択的に薄くした固体撮像装置の安定した製造が可能となる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明に係る固体撮像装置の実施の形態を示す 概略部分拡大断面図である。

【図2】図1に示した実施の形態に係る固体撮像装置の 製造工程を示す断面図である。

【図3】図2に示した製造工程に続く製造工程を示す断面図である。

【図4】図3に示した製造工程に続く製造工程を示す断面図である。

【図5】図4に示した製造工程に続く製造工程を示す断面図である。

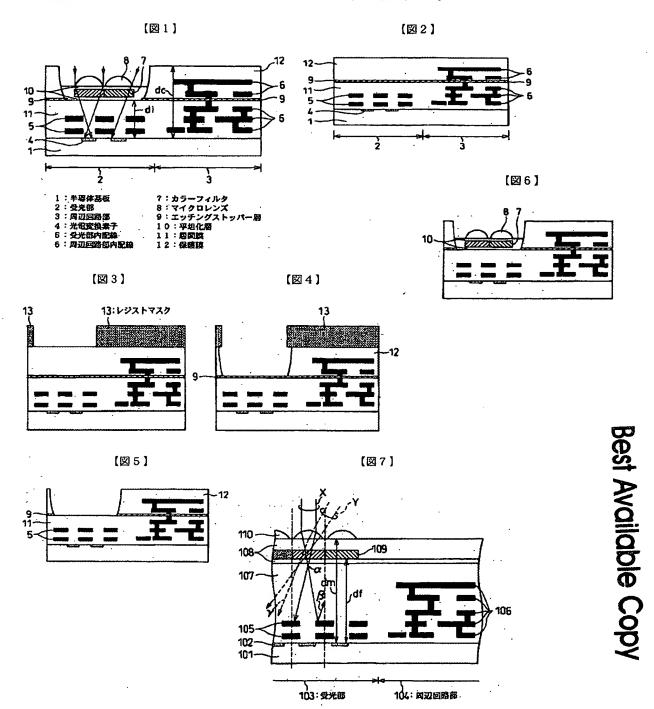
【図6】図5に示した製造工程に続く製造工程を示す断面図である。

【図7】従来のSOS構成の固体撮像装置の構成例と、 それにおける問題点を示す図である。

【符号の説明】

- 1 半導体基板
- 2 受光部
- 3 周辺回路部
- 4 光電変換案子
- 5 受光部内配線
- 6 周辺回路部内配線
- 7 カラーフィルタ
- 8 マイクロレンズ
- 9 エッチングストッパー層
- 10 平坦化層
- 11 層間膜

13 レジストマスク



フロントページの続き

F ターム(参考) 2H048 BB02 BB10 BB13 BB46 4M118 AA05 AA10 AB01 BA09 CA02 CA31 FA06 FA08 GC07 GD07 5C024 AA01 CA31 EA04 EA08 FA01 FA02 FA11